

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Illinois	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Appellate Court, 5th District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
14th and Main Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Mt. Vernon

STATE Illinois	CODE 17	COUNTY: Jefferson	CODE 081
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Illinois

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Springfield

STATE: Illinois	CODE 17
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Histori

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Jefferson	CODE
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D. C.	CODE 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Illinois
COUNTY: Jefferson
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The initial plan was rectangular, with north and south wings, converting the plan to a Greek cross, added in 1874. The structure is of painted brick with simple pilaster strips around it and a wood cornice. The elegance of the facade is set by paired Ionic columns in wood and a double curved stairway leading to lofty main rooms on the second floor. The cast-iron stair was manufactured in St. Louis. 1

The Courthouse, of Greek Revival type of architecture, stands at Fourteenth and Main Streets. It has simple classic lines, two fluted pillars support the front gable, in the center of which is a medallion of the scales of justice. Twin wrought-iron stairways on the outside of the front of the building lead to the second floor, and the story is that it took three weeks to bring this stairway from St. Louis by ox-cart. 2

On the ground floor are three bedrooms with private baths for the use of the justices when they are in Mt. Vernon. Also on this floor is the apartment of the Clerk of the Court. The second floor has the Court Room, the Clerk's office, the Conference room, and the Library. 2

The Court room, with its high ceilings adorned with a huge chandelier, its walnut bench and judges chairs, will command attention. Four pillars form an arch over the judges' bench, and painted on the wall directly behind the judges' chairs is the great Seal of the State of Illinois. 2

¹ Koeper, Frederick, Illinois Architecture from Territorial Times to the Present, University of Chicago Press, p. 190, 1968.

² Brochure prepared by the State of Illinois, entitled State of Illinois Appellate Court, 5th District, Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian ¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1854

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1848, a new constitution provided that the Supreme Court should sit in three areas or divisions. Mt. Vernon was chosen for the Southern or First Division, and in 1854, with a \$6,000 appropriation, this building was begun. An additional appropriation of \$10,000 was needed to finish the building according to the original plan, whose architect is unknown. The constitution of 1870 established appellate courts and both courts shared this building until 1887 when the Supreme Court was centered in Springfield. ¹

Hospital records in Mt. Vernon show that at the time of the tornado on February 19, 1888, an emergency hospital was housed in the building under the supervision of Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross. ²

The Appellate Court House had been selected by the Advisory Committee of the Historic American Buildings Survey as possessing exceptional historic and architectural interest, and as being worthy of most careful preservation for the benefit of future generations. To this end, a record of its present appearance and condition has been made and deposited for permanent reference in the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C. ²

¹Koeper, Frederick, Illinois Architecture from Territorial Times to the Present, p. 190, 1968.

² Brochure prepared by the State of Illinois, entitled State of Illinois Appellate Court, 5th District.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Koepfer, Frederick, Illinois Architecture from Territorial Times to the Present, The University of Chicago Press, 1968.

A brochure prepared by the State of Illinois, entitled "State of Illinois Appellate Court, Fifth District, Mt. Vernon, Illinois."

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		30°	19'	01"
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		88°	54'	05"
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .7

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William Farrar, Director

ORGANIZATION: Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey DATE: Feb. 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 320 South Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Benton STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered JUL 2 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Appellate Court, 5th District	Mt. Vernon Jefferson County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy
Hon. Adlai F. Stevenson, III
Hon. Kenneth J. Gray